

AGIC Future Directions Meeting
Report to the AGIC A&L Committee
On Meeting Summary and Recommendations
January 24, 2007

On December 19, 2006 the AGIC Administration and Legal (A&L) Committee conducted an AGIC Future Directions Workshop. The workshop invited participants to discuss both the functionality and direction of the AGIC Organization. A round table discussion focused on membership perception of the both the functional and dysfunctional qualities of the current organization. All members were invited to share their respective insight toward the development of an improved organization as well as task to be defined for the coming year(s).

This report summarizes the major items brought forth during the forum, identifying both current issues and proposed recommendations in order to strengthen the organization. The purpose of this report is to allow attendees the opportunity to review the summation of events and work with the Administration and Legal Committee in order to bring these findings forward for full board consideration during the February 8, 2007 AGIC board meeting.

This report will be broken into three sections for review:

- AGIC Board process/function/planning issues
- Recommended Activities for AGIC Annual Work Plan
- Additional comments

Note: although paraphrased to some extent, the items below reflect the common themes brought forth through forum discussion.

AGIC Board process, function, and planning issues:

Identification of AGIC direction. Members expressed concern regarding the “true” direction of AGIC. What is the purpose of AGIC, and how does the current model meet the identified purpose (per executive order). As membership reviewed the duties as identified by the current executive order 2004-19 (<http://www.lib.az.us/is/state/eo/2004-19.pdf>) it was determined that AGIC should revisit which items were actually being provided to the GIS Community as outlined. These Executive Board Duties items include: (copied from the white board):

- A. Collect information on user requirements for maps, imagery and GIS systems
- B. Prioritize & relate above to USGS, ALRIS and other producers of GIS products
- C. Forum for sharing of information: fed, state, local and private sector GIS activities and products
- D. Data Standards
- E. Coordinate interagency map production or acquisition and GIS database development
- F. Study cartographic issues and GIS and make recommendations to Land Commissioner

In essence AGIC is a Forum for the collection, dissemination, sharing, and promotion of GIS (spatial) activities throughout the state. As a board, populated via volunteer professionals, with little funding nor paid staff we see limitations to the amount and type of successes we (as a board) may achieve. Understanding and then defining the power of our organization was seen as key to its success. The collective knowledge base (of the current board and committees) has an opportunity to focus on the following:

- Standards (data, hardware/software, process) with respect to statewide enterprise GIS.
- Promotion – we are the champions of Geospatial information systems for our state
- Coordination – the broad membership have opportunity to provide guidance with respect to geospatial coordination
- Issues – as Geospatial professionals we understand potential issues and can provide insight/recommendations regarding such.

AGIC Activities: AGIC needs to identify the difference between an AGIC activity versus a departmental (via SCO or ASLD for example) activity and understand it's ability to designate an entity to do something.

- Promotional device for promotion of AZ Enterprise GIS
- Members are Champions of GIS for AZ – (see activities below)
- Activities provide guidance to direct other “doers” in the development of necessary spatial projects for the state which assist in the promotion, development, and execution of AZ Enterprise GIS.
- Education – at a variety of levels, Conference, workshops, leadership role in state.
 - Education of non-GIS professionals in the value of Spatial technologies (see Executive Summit activity below).

Membership: It was recognized that membership need to acknowledge the responsibilities of board membership with respect to attendance (to include unfilled positions) and participation. This is a Governor appointment, and NEEDS to be taken seriously.

Documentation: Board minutes need to better document the actions taken, especially when actions involve the movement of funds. Follow up of action items should be required to be delivered next board meeting.

Recommended Activities for AGIC Annual Work Plan

Continue the AGIC Conference. The majority of Workshop participants stated that what they thought AGIC did well was conduct an Annual Conference to share GIS information with the Arizona GIS community, continuation of this event is essential. Look for ways to improve the conference and identify more AGIC may do to support the conference.

Development of and Executive Forum: Much discussion surrounded the development of an executive forum to relay activities and importance of geospatial data and integration to provide better mechanisms for “support” within government. The development of such a forum would need to focus the following items:

- Invitation from the Governor

- Invite all levels of government (and others who have influence) in order to obtain overarching support of AGIC's geospatial goals.
- Development of a clear, concise message (Focus!).
 - Indicate how execs can both benefit and help
 - Target specific issues
 - Statute problems
 - Data sharing issues
 - Specific examples / results – (Note: possibly research activities/successes of other states to save lives and money through the application of geospatial technologies/solutions.)
- Take message on the road – Forum can be developed into a roadshow to deliver the message to organizations having interest in geospatial technologies.
 - League of AZ Cities and Towns
 - ICMA
 - NACO
 - Etc. (AGIC can explore these opportunities)

Coordination/Promotional Assistance for AGIC Data Portal / Geospatial Data

Clearinghouse: Continued support of the AGIC Data Portal and Geospatial Data Clearinghouse – Board needs to direct members (committees) to specific task focused on standards, coordination, and promotion of the activities. Board should work with identified partners and assist in the management of these projects/programs. This activity speaks to the promotion of Enterprise GIS for Arizona.

GIS Champion for Arizona Enterprise GIS: Staff recognizes the board having the unique ability to be a champion of GIS for the state. Several potential activities came out of this discussion:

- Development of State GIO position to assist in pushing forward AGIC agenda for Enterprise GIS, education, communication amongst all levels of geospatial community.
- Promotion of GIS activities within the state. (Much of this can be done through our annual conference, however this requires the audience to come to us, indications are we must go to them. See executive forum).
- Identify a high-level executive, or decision-maker, to champion AGIC and Enterprise GIS.

Executive Order Update: Due to the age of the original Order, AGIC should investigate the means to update the executive order to reflect the current era situation with respect to Geospatial technologies. This would include:

- Research into the ability for change
- Redefine the AGIC Agent – currently AGIC is an advisory council to the ASLD – this may NOT be at the level of management required to effect change as necessary for Enterprise action.
- Membership: Depending on who was speaking, the current membership doesn't reflect the current "need" on the board speak to all aspect of GIS management in the

state. Some members hoped for more local (and private) representation, others thought the membership was too large, making it difficult to secure a quorum at every board meeting.

- Duties: Update of the AGIC duties to reflect current era needs and focus on the future.

Additional Comments: *(per December 19 pros and cons session)*

(Note: AGIC Members need to define the activity of the board, as it only meets for 8 hours per year – identifying a clear methodology regarding the operation of these quarterly meetings is essential – it is not proposed that AGIC adopt EVERY recommendation as presented during the December 19 meeting, rather identify which rise to the top and how to implement.)

Board Issues (not identified above):

- Appearance of schizophrenia within the organization: AGIC has some desire to be an organization rather than an executive board.
 - Partnerships may resolve part of this “issue”.
- Attendance, Attendance, Attendance – a common complaint, ensure membership understands the importance of their attendance at board meetings, and also their responsibility to bring something to the table for both committee and board activities.

Board Meeting Issues (not identified above):

- Meeting Preparation: Committee’s need to be better prepared when presenting reports – identifying information vs. action required.
 - Board meetings are tedious and unproductive (at times)
- Abstentions (in voting) not recognized – this needs to be a procedural change
- Information exchange: Board meetings should include more opportunity for information exchange between membership and the geospatial community. More time needs to be dedicated at these meeting to provide opportunity for presentations having interest to the board and the geospatial community.
 - Rural Arizona involvement
 - Greater Private sector involvement
 - Focus on local government needs (conference numbers indicate attendance at this level is greatest) – involving local geospatial needs up the chain important to enterprise success. *(Note: Original Board focus (per executive order) is to report upon “state” activities and needs – see Update to Executive Order as opportunity to better address “whole” state geospatial needs for integration.)*